

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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-----006548 210918Z /10
R 210800Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8923

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASIG
SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF THE PHILIPPINES

REF: STATE 165419

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY MANILA COMPLIANCE WITH REFTEL WITH
PARAGRAPHS KEYED TO RECOMMENDATION NUMBERS.

2. RECOMMENDATION 5-2, ROTATION OF JUNIOR OFFICERS: THE
FOURTH PARAGRAPH OF THE TELEGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT
(STATE 165419) APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT (A) WE HAVE NOT
SUCCESSFULLY EXPLAINED OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ROTATION OF
JUNIOR OFFICERS; AND (B) THE ACTUAL PERSONNEL SITUATION
HERE IS NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD.

WE ARE NOT AGAINST ROTATION IN THE CONSULAR SECTION AND, IN
FACT, THINK WE DO A GOOD JOB OF ROTATING OFFICERS ASSIGNED
TO THAT SECTION. AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF THE JUNIOR OR NEW
OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO CONSULAR SECTION (CONSEC) FOR FULL
TOURS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, HAVE BEEN ROTATED THROUGH AT
LEAST THREE DIFFERENT JOBS. THE SAME PROJECTION CAN SAFELY
BE MADE FOR RECENTLY-ARRIVED OFFICERS AND THOSE DUE SOON.

A. OUR PREVIOUS CONSUL GENERAL RESISTED A FORMAL SCHEDULE
WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE AN OFFICIAL OBLIGATION TO
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ROTATE SPECIFIC OFFICERS AT SPECIFIC TIMES. HISTORY HAS
CONFIRMED THE WISDOM OF THAT RETICENCE. ALTHOUGH PER/FAC
HAS, AS THE REFTEL STATES, PROMISED TO "INCREASE ITS
EFFORTS TO KEEP OUR POSITIONS FILLED WITH AS FEW GAPS AS
POSSIBLE," WE ARE NOW FIVE OFFICERS SHORT, AND WILL SOON BE
SEVEN BEFORE THE REFILLING PROCESS BEGINS. ONE POSITION,
(CUNNINGHAM) HAS NO REPLACEMENT NAMED, ALTHOUGH CUNNINGHAM

HAS ALREADY DEPARTED POST. PREVIOUS CG DID GO SO FAR AS TO PUBLISH A TENTATIVE STAFFING SCHEDULE TO RUN FROM MARCH 27 THROUGH AUGUST, INVOLVING ROTATION OF FOUR OFFICERS. THAT SCHEDULE IS STILL INTACT EXCEPT FOR ONE CHANGE WHICH HAD TO BE ABANDONED BECAUSE OF PERSONAL SITUATION OF ONE OFFICER. ACTING CONSUL GENERAL PURDY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO EXTEND THAT SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF STAFFING GAPS MENTIONED ABOVE AND BECAUSE HE HESITATES TO OBLIGATE NEW CG TUELLER TO SOMETHING LATTER MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT CONSEC MANILA IS DOING WHAT INSPECTORS DESIRE, NAMELY "DEVELOPING A CORPS OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED CONSULAR PERSONNEL." A COMMENDABLE AND PERHAPS INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME IS SPENT HERE IN TRAINING NEW OFFICERS. FOR EXAMPLE, NIV UNIT CHIEF HAS HAD NINE NEW OFFICERS PASS THROUGH HIS UNIT IN SIX MONTHS PERIOD. BUT MANILA ALSO PRODUCES AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF OFFICERS WHO HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE IN SEVERAL FIELDS OF CONSULAR WORK AND WHO LEAVE HERE BETTER PREPARED FOR FURTHER CONSULAR WORK THAN IS THE CASE IN MOST OTHER POSTS. WE FEEL WE CAN NOW ASSIGN MORE OFFICERS ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS TO VISIT U.S. MILITARY BASES.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS 7A1 AND 7B3, REDUCTION OF FSL STAFF:
BY MAY 31 THE EMBASSY HAD PLACED UNDER A NON-PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT THE SERVICES FORMERLY PROVIDED BY 30 LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN THE GENERAL SERVICES AND SECURITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITS. THE INCUMBENTS WERE EITHER GIVEN REDUCTION-IN-FORCE NOTICES OR, WHEN POSSIBLE, REASSIGNED TO OTHER TYPES OF DUTIES. OF THE 30 POSITIONS WHICH WERE FREED, 13 WERE RECLASSIFIED AND THE POSITIONS DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE UNITS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION WHERE IT WAS BELIEVED NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT REQUIRED. BY SEPTEL A SUMMARY OF THE POSITIONS THAT WERE RELEASED WHEN THE SERVICES PERFORMED BY FSLs WERE TRANSFERRED TO CONTRACT WILL BE FORWARDED TO EA/EX. THE EMBASSY WAS GUIDED BY THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN A-2007, DATED MAY 5, 1977 AND BELIEVES THE CONTRACTS CONFORM. THERE IS NO FORMAL STUDY ABOUT THE UTILIZATION OF MANPOWER WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. A DECISION WAS MADE TO CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES AND PAINTING SERVICES AND THUS ELIMINATE THE JANITORIAL FORCE AND THE PAINT SHOP. FURTHER STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION WILL BE CONSIDERED, FUNCTION BY FUNCTION, AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE KEPT INFORMED. WITH REGARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL FSL POSITIONS IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTION, THE SECOND POSITION OF EXECUTIVE CHAUFFEUR FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE COMMERCIAL SECTION AND RECLASSIFIED AS SECRETARY. THE EMBASSY WILL

REQUEST EA/EX TO REALLOCATE ONE OF THE FSL FAAS POSITIONS SCHEDULED FOR ABOLISHMENT AS A PROGRAM POSITION FOR THE COMMERCIAL SECTION.

4. RECOMMENDATION 7B-2, JO ROTATIONAL PROGRAM: THE PER/FCA/JO RESPONSE TO THAT RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN

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5. RECOMMENDATION 7B-5, FSL PARTICIPATION IN PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT SYSTEM. AS SOON AS THE EMBASSY COMPLETES ITS STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF FSL PARTICIPATION IN THE PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT SYSTEM, A COPY WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. RECOMMENDATION 7-C6, COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDY ON TRAVEL VOUCHERS: THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF HAVING VOUCHER AUDIT CLERKS IN B&M PREPARE TRAVEL VOUCHERS IS MORE COST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT THAN OTHER PROCEDURES. PRINCIPAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THIS CONCLUSION WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- A. PREPARATION OF COMPLICATED PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION TRAVEL VOUCHERS TAKES 2 OR 3 DAYS; LOCAL TRAVEL VOUCHERS TAKE 3 OR 4 HOURS FOR EXPERIENCED FSL EMPLOYEES.
- B. FSL EMPLOYEES HANDLING VOUCHERS ARE PAID \$1.27 AND \$1.10 PER HOUR. AMERICANS ARE PAID A GREAT DEAL MORE.
- C. AN EXTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM AND PREPARATION

AND DISTRIBUTION OF INSTRUCTION MATERIAL WOULD
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BE REQUIRED FOR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES
PRESENTLY UNFAMILIAR WITH TRAVEL REGULATIONS
AND CALCULATION OF PER DIEM. THIS WOULD
REQUIRE DIVERSION OF RESOURCES FROM B&M NOW
USED FOR OTHER REQUIREMENTS. FURTHER, SUCH
TRAINING WOULD REQUIRE FREQUENT REPETITION.

7. RECOMMENDATION 7D(1)-1. ELIMINATING C&R POSITION:
EMBASSY RESPONSE DESIGNATING 55-145 AS THE C&R POSITION
TO BE ABOLISHED WAS IN ERROR AS THE C&R UNIT DOES NOT HAVE
A POSITION WITH THIS NUMBER. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN 55-134
WHICH WAS RECOMMENDED IN MANILA '77 - 19771. SINCE
POSITION 55-134 WAS SELECTED FOR ABOLISHMENT, A NEW
INCUMBENT ARRIVED 7/2/78. THEREFORE, IT IS NOW RECOM-
MENDED THAT POSITION 55-284 BE SUBSTITUTED FOR 55-134
AS THE INCUMBENT IS THE NEXT EMPLOYEE IN C&R ELIGIBLE
FOR TRANSFER. HIS ETD WILL BE MAY 1979. THE EMBASSY
PROPOSES, HOWEVER, THAT POSITION 55-284 BE RETAINED AND
UPON THE DEPARTURE OF THE PRESENT INCUMBENT, BE REASSIGNED
TO THE MAIL AND POUCH ROOM. IN MARCH 1976, POSITION
55-392 WHICH WAS THE SECOND POSITION IN THE MAIL AND POUCH
ROOM WAS ABOLISHED. APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS LATER IN
JUNE OF 1976, THE ARMED FORCES COURIER SERVICE (ARFCOS)
IN BANGKOK WAS TERMINATED AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
ARFCOS EXCHANGE WAS SHIFTED TO THE EMBASSY IN MANILA,
THEREBY INCREASING THE WORKLOAD SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE
EMBASSY MAIL AND POUCH ROOM AND CREATING A REGIONAL
SERVICES REQUIREMENT. A RECOMMENDATION WITH STATISTICS
SUPPORTING THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RETENTION OF
POSITION 55-284 WILL BE FORTHCOMING BY SEPTEL TO THE
DEPARTMENT.

8. RECOMMENDATION 7D(1)-4, PAYMENT OF TELEPHONE BILLS:
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ALL FISCAL FUNCTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TELEPHONE ACCOUNTS
HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO B&F TO INCLUDE PRO-RATING
AMOUNTS OWED BY DEPARTING EMPLOYEES AND PAYING AMOUNTS
OWED TO TELEPHONE COMPANY BY CHECK.

9. RECOMMENDATION 7E-5, WHETHER OR NOT TO ESTABLISH A
CHARGE FOR SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE BETWEEN SEAFRONT COMPOUND
AND THE CHANCERY. IN ADDITION TO EMBASSY'S RESPONSE IN

A-51 OF MARCH 24, 1978, THE FOLLOWING IS PERTINENT:

- A. THE BUSES WERE PROCURED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO MEET EMERGENCY FLOOD CONDITIONS DURING THE 1972 TYPHOON SEASON. RECENT FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS IN AREAS FREQUENTED BY MISSION PERSONNEL HAVE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED FLOODING CONDITIONS LIKE THOSE EXPERIENCED IN 1972 AND 1976. THE DEPARTMENT HAS INDICATED THAT THESE BUSES WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE REPLACED. WE ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ONE BUS IN OPERATION.
- B. DUE TO THE SHORT DISTANCE AND RELATIVELY LOW DRIVER'S SALARY, THE OPERATING COSTS ARE QUITE LOW. ESTABLISHING AN EQUITABLE CHARGE, COLLECTING IT AND MAINTAINING SECURITY FOR THE FUNDS WOULD REQUIRE THE TIME OF A HIGHER PAID FSL, AS WELL AS RECORD-KEEPING EXPENSES AND TIME.
- C. THE DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE

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BETWEEN MAIN STATE, ROSSLYN, UNIVERSAL NORTH,
AND OTHER STOPS. THE USERS ARE NOT CHARGED.
MANY OF THE REASONS FOR THAT SERVICE APPLY TO
THE SEAFRONT SHUTTLE BUS.

- D. IF SHUTTLE SERVICE WERE INCREASED OR EXPANDED--
- A POSSIBILITY WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING -- IT
WOULD PROBABLY BE WORTH ESTABLISHING A CHARGE.

10. RECOMMENDATION 7G-3, CONCERNING THE FORT BONIFACIO TRACT: WE CAN ONLY ADD TO RESPONSE IN OUR A-51 OF MARCH 24, 1978 THAT THIS TRANSACTION AWAITS PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ACTION WHICH WILL PROBABLY DEPEND ON THE CONTEXT AND OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ADVISED PROMPTLY OF ANY FORWARD MOTION IN THIS MATTER.

11. RECOMMENDATION 9-8, ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS BY AMCONSUL CEBU: CEBU HAS NOW RECEIVED MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO ISSUE PASSPORTS. THE TYPEWRITER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM STILL MISSING. AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED, CONSEC MANILA WILL SEND ITS PASSPORT-MAKER, A SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE WITH OVER FIFTEEN YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE WORK, DOWN TO CEBU TO HELP TRAIN THE LOCALS THERE. MURPHY
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